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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

THE WASHINGTON POST Monday, February 5, 1962 B21

Mrs. Smith Snubbed in Committee

By Drew Pearson

Jockeying for committee position in the U. S. Senate may not mean much to the outsider. But insiders know it can affect U. S. policy and laws which the American people have to live under.

During five Congresses the late Sen. Styles Bridges of New Hampshire rose to his feet at the opening ses-



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sion to announce that he wished to step aside as ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee in favor of his Republican colleague from Massachusetts, Leverett Saltonstall.

Inside fact was Saltonstall had pestered and badgered Bridges with the argument that since Bridges was ranking Republican on both Appropriations and Armed Services, he should relinquish one of these posts to his colleague from Massachusetts. Bridges did so.

Now the shoe is on the other foot and the tall blue-blood from Boston, Lev Saltonstall, is the top Republican on the same two committees—Appropriations and Armed Services. But so far he has not been as gallant as he asked the late Senator Bridges to be.

Sen. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine, also Republican, is number two on the Armed Services Committee. Senator Saltonstall, who can trace his ancestry back to the early days of the Pilgrim fathers, prides himself on being a courtly man. But he has not

done for Mrs. Smith what he asked Bridges to do for him.

Penalizing a Lady?

Ten years ago, Senator Smith was a member of the McCarthy Investigating Committee. Being a lady of both courage and principle, she didn't like McCarthy's ruthless tactics and said so. Finally she signed the "declaration of conscience" calling upon fair play in the investigating methods of the U. S. Senate.

McCarthy promptly bounced Mrs. Smith off his Investigating Committee.

Last week, Senator Smith again showed courage. She challenged John McCone as unqualified to be head of Central Intelligence. Central Intelligence hitherto has reported, intermittently and not very satisfactorily, to a subcommittee of Armed Services on which the top two ranking Republicans are members.

Mrs. Smith, whether Saltonstall bows or not, is among the top two Republicans. But it's reported in Senate cloak-rooms that she will now be penalized for her opposition and denied a position on the subcommittee which is supposed to check on CIA.

NOTE—For a long time some Senators have been demanding a watchdog committee to scrutinize CIA, similar to the Joint Atomic Energy Committee which checks on the AEC. The Armed Services Subcommittee is a rather unsatisfactory makeshift until a permanent watchdog committee is established—if ever.

News Capsules

Tax Fraud—The Justice Department is about to crack down hard on a prominent New Yorker for income tax fraud. In figuring his tax

return, he added up travel and entertainment expenses to \$7000. For good measure, he put a "one" in front of the "seven"—making it \$17,000 for travel and entertainment. Internal Revenue Service says this case will be prosecuted not only as a flagrant violation of the law, but as a warning to other taxpayers against abuses of entertainment and business expense allowances.

New Lobbyists—Among the lobbyists who have turned up on Capitol Hill at this session of Congress so far are two former aides to President Eisenhower: Clyde Wheeler, representing the Sunray Mid-Continent Oil Company, and Bryce Harlow, representing Proctor and Gamble, the giant soap manufacturer, whose president, Neil McElroy, used to be Ike's Secretary of Defense. Ike's former chief assistant, Wilton Persons, also has been in touch with congressmen on real estate matters in behalf of the First Mortgage Investors.

Red Carpet for Congo—President Kennedy is all set to give a red-carpet welcome to Premier Adoula of the Central Congo Government when he arrives for an official visit. Adoula has been invited mainly to demonstrate to Sen. Tom Dodd and congressional critics that Congo developments have now quieted down enough to make it safe for him to leave the country. Adoula is very pro-American and his comments are expected to prove that American policy has worked out successfully after months of turmoil.

Personal Diplomacy—President Kennedy got on the phone to Adlai Stevenson and Secretary of State Rusk personally the other day to urge, almost command, them to get

President Sukarno of Indonesia and the Prime Minister of Holland to come to New York and talk together in order to head off war. "Get those two fellows over here, and sit them down in New York and keep them there until they get some sense," the President told Ambassador Stevenson on the phone. Rusk and Stevenson are still trying to produce.

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